

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

(Mr. BARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of National Victims' Rights Week. Presently the scales of justice are tilted against crime victims. For too long, victims of crime have gone unrecognized in our criminal justice system. Too often the victim is all but forgotten, left outside of the process. This is not right and must be changed.

Victims should not occupy the fringes of our criminal justice process. It was Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo who said: "Justice, though due of the accused, is due to the accuser also. The concept of fairness must not be strained until it is narrowed to a filament. We are to keep the balance true."

As we remember victims of crime this week, we see the filament Justice Cardozo spoke of becoming increasingly thin. Our current system is not fair to victims, and the time has come for us to balance the scales of justice.

Our Nation was founded on the principles of equal protection under the law and equal justice for all. It is not until our Constitution guarantees the rights of victims that the scales of justice will truly be balanced.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PAGE BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Without objection, and pursuant to section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House of Representatives Page Board:

Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois,
Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL FEDERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to Section 12(b)(1) of the Centennial of Flight Commemoration Act (36 U.S.C. 143) and upon the recommendation of the minority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following citizen of the United States to the First Flight Centennial Federal Advisory Board:

Mr. Neil Armstrong, Lebanon, Ohio.
There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF JAMES MADISON COMMEMORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 5(b)

of the James Madison Commemoration Commission Act (P.L. 106-550) the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the James Madison Commemoration Advisory Committee:

Dr. Charles R. Kesler, Claremont, California,
Mr. Randy Wright, Richmond, Virginia.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 24, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for appointing me to serve on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In keeping with the Democratic Caucus rules and Rules of the House that limit me to serving on no more than two full committees I am resigning from my seat on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Please notify me as to the disposition of this request. If you cannot reach me directly at 226-3787, please notify my Chief of Staff, Mark Brownell, at 225-2165.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 503, UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 119 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 119

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 503) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; (2) the further amendment printed in the Congressional Record pursuant to clause 8 of rule XVIII and numbered 1, if offered by Representative Lofgren of California or her designee, which shall be considered as read

and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Committee on Rules met and granted a modified closed rule for H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Committee on Rules report shall be considered as adopted.

The rule provides for 2 hours of general debate, equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule makes in order the amendment printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, if offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) or her designee, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

This is a fair rule, which will permit a thorough discussion of all of the relevant issues. Indeed, after 2 hours of debate and consideration of a Democrat substitute amendment, we will be more than ready to vote on H.R. 503. This is not a complex issue.

Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 1996, Gregory Robbins, an Air Force enlisted man, wrapped his fist in a T-shirt and brutally beat his pregnant 18-year-old wife. Soon after, his young wife gave birth to a stillborn 8-month-old fetus. To their surprise and disappointment, the Air Force prosecutors concluded that, although they could charge Gregory Robbins with simple assault, they could not charge him in the death of the couple's child. Why? Because Federal murder laws do not recognize the unborn. A criminal can beat a pregnant woman in the stomach to kill the baby, and the law ignores her pregnancy.

This is not just an isolated problem. Three years ago in my hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina, Ruth Croston and her unborn child were brutally murdered by her estranged husband. The husband later was charged with domestic violence, but the prosecutors could do nothing about the dead child.

It is wrong, and it has to be stopped. Fortunately, 24 States have adopted